

CARTER COURIER

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

The past few weeks have been busy for my colleagues and me as Congress heads toward the President's Day weekend. This week's agenda has been filled with debate surrounding our nation's continued presence in Iraq and whether our servicemen and women deserve our continued support. In defense of their mission, I have spoken several times from the House floor and will discuss this in greater detail below.

In addition to legislative business, I was proud to debut my weekly radio address this week, which will provide commentary on many issues affecting Central Texas.

This coming week, Congress will be in recess for a district work period. I believe that elected representatives should spend as much time as possible discussing issues with their constituents and I look forward to that opportunity this coming week. I hope this newsletter finds each of you happy and well. As always, if I may be of any assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact any of my offices.

Until next week,

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS WITH WORDS AND ACTIONS

One of the biggest questions facing our nation today is the future of the War on Terror. With Iraq as the central front in this war, Congress cannot avoid answering this question candidly and with sound resolve. This week, Democrats introduced House Concurrent Resolution 63 which initiated a 3-day, politically motivated, debate on whether our servicemen and women in Iraq deserve continued support.

For several days now, I have listened to my liberal colleagues try to explain their "give up" posture as one of support and commitment for the efforts in Iraq. But actions do not always match words. On January 10, 2007, President Bush requested an increase of 20,000 additional combat troops be sent to Iraq. This request was recommended by the bi-partisan Iraq Study Group and is in accordance with the guidance he received from generals on the ground in Iraq. But instead of respecting his role as Commander-in-Chief or offering an alternative plan, Congress has spent 3 days debating a non-binding resolution as to whether we should give the President our verbal blessing or not.

Although this resolution does not carry the force of law, it serves as a symbolic milestone for anti-war liberals whose explicit desire is to end the war through de-funding our servicemen and women. A nonbinding resolution does nothing to stop the war; it is nothing more than a political stunt that weakens morale among the troops and gives aid and comfort to our enemies. In fact, in

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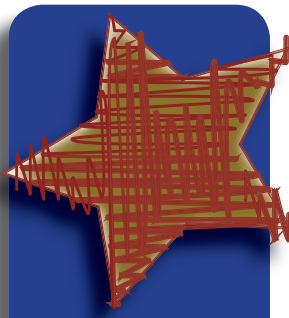
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a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on January 23, 2007, General David Petraeus, the new commanding officer in Iraq, agreed that a resolution of disapproval for the President's new strategy would "give the enemy some encouragement." Like General Petraeus, I believe this political statement will have a devastating impact on troop morale.

During the countless hours of debate, a few representatives stated that the insurgency in Iraq is not driven by terrorists. But I would argue that the Islamist terrorist threat is real and directly connected to defeating the insurgents in Iraq. The Democrat plan to abandon Iraq will not make this threat disappear. Terrorists themselves believe Iraq is a central front in the War on Terror. Ayman Al-Zawahiri, Al Qaeda's deputy leader, has repeatedly said Iraq and Afghanistan are the "two most crucial fields" in the Islamists' war.

America can not afford to repeat the mistakes of the past by withdrawing from a direct confrontation with radical Islamist terrorists. They will continue to intensify their attacks against America, just as they did following the 1983 Beirut bombings, the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993, the 1996 attack on the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, the U.S. embassy bombings in Africa in 1997, and the brazen attack against the U.S.S. Cole in 2000.

Yet sadly, many in Congress cannot understand the simple importance of winning in Iraq. Winning involves leaving Iraq strong enough to protect itself from threats domestic and abroad. It involves ensuring that critical infrastructure and democratic processes are in place that can withstand the political pressures it will face.

Liberals in Congress are determined to ride a wave of public frustration and anxiety in hopes of advancing their anti-war agenda. Should this happen, the consequences will be dire. The outcome in Iraq will impact our efforts in the Global War on Terror for decades. Should we retreat from Iraq, it would result in pervasive instability, embolden radical Islamist terrorists to expand to new areas in the region, and give terrorists a secure base from which to launch attacks against America.

As this debate continues, I urge the residents of the 31st District to consider the dire consequences of withdrawing from Iraq too early and the travesty of cutting funding for our servicemen and women in combat. Cutting funding for the men and women who put their lives in harm's way is reprehensible and irresponsible. Each of us shares the same goal of bringing our soldiers home as soon as possible, but we must accomplish our objectives first. The long-term security and stability of Iraq, America, and the free world requires no less.

TARLETON STATE RECEIVES GRANT FOR WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE PROJECT

Recently, I was proud to announce that the Center for Agribusiness Excellence (CAE) at Tarleton State University (TSU) will receive \$3.6 million in Federal funding under the Federal Crop Insurance Act for continued administration of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) data mining project. Funding for the program was scheduled to expire on February 28, 2007, but will be renewed due to Congressional action.

The Federal Crop Insurance program is an important safety net for our farmers. This grant will help ensure the viability of this program by continuing the fight against waste, fraud and abuse. In addition, the economic outlook of Stephenville and the jobs of thirty residents will be protected by this grant.

The FCIC provides hazard insurance to farmers in the case of crop failure. The data mining project was established in 2000 to provide analysis of every insurance policy under the FCIC. When coupled with National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association weather data, Public Land Survey System Data, and other agricultural data, CAE is able to identify inconsistent claims and report them to the Risk Management Agency for follow up. Since its inception, these actions have saved the FCIC more than \$450 million in verifiable savings, resulting in a 20:1 return on the \$20 million investment.

"With continued support for the Center for Agribusiness Excellence, we will be able to continue our data mining research that has saved taxpayers almost half of a billion dollars the past five years and hundreds of millions of dollars in the future," said Dr. Bert Little, Associate Vice President for Research of Tarleton State University.

CARTER LAUNCHES WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS

On February 8th, 2007 I recorded my first in a series of weekly radio addresses for use in broadcast by Central Texas radio stations. Weekly addresses will follow every Thursday while the House of Representatives is in session.

This past week's 7-minute address discusses "Air Pelosi," supporting our servicemen and women in Iraq, and balancing the budget – without increasing taxes.

<http://carter.house.gov/multimedia/>

As Congress continues to discuss issues of importance to Central Texas, I will provide commentary on these matters to local media outlets and my constituents.

NEW ANTI-TERRORISM CAUCUS

This past week I was proud to announce my membership in the new Congressional Anti-Terrorism Caucus. The caucus is a bipartisan effort to educate Members of Congress and the general public about the threat extremist and jihadist terrorists pose to the United States.

Terrorism is one of the gravest issues facing our nation today. I look forward to working with all members of this caucus so that we may be more educated about this critical issue and better able to protect Americans from terrorist acts. The work that comes out of this caucus will be especially valuable to me in my role on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security.

The 70-member caucus is co-chaired by Representatives Sue Myrick (R-NC), Bud Cramer (D-AL), Kay Granger (R-TX) and Ben Chandler (D-KY). Members receive briefings from terrorism experts at twice-monthly caucus meetings. Upcoming issues to be discussed include terrorist use of the Internet, terrorist financing methods and ideological differences between moderate Muslims and extremists.

The caucus will help provide Members with more detailed information on terrorism so that Congress can create better policy and provide better oversight in regards to terrorist threats. In addition, the caucus will help Members commence an informed dialogue with the public regarding terrorism so that all Americans better understand the extent of the threat facing the nation.

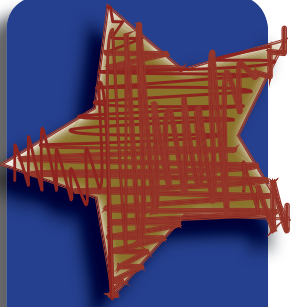
"HIRE A VETERAN WEEK"

On February 1st, I proudly voted for an action that expresses support for the designation of "Hire a Veteran Week" and encourages President Bush to issue a proclamation supporting the goals of this measure.

This program recognizes the importance of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States, and has my full support. By designating "Hire a Veteran Week", and encouraging the President to issue a proclamation bringing attention to this effort, we will be able to express our appreciation for the efforts of the brave men and women who have served the United States.

A greater number of soldiers are beginning to return home and will be re-entering the workforce or searching for their first jobs outside of military service. Although veterans possess special qualities and skills that make them ideal candidates for employment, many veterans encounter difficulties in securing employment. "Hire a Veteran Week" will encourage employers, labor organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, and federal, state, and local government agencies to lend their support to veterans by increasing employment prospects for men and women who have served in the military.

This act will reflect America's sincere appreciation and respect for the military personnel who served their country. This effort will aide in many veterans' search for the jobs they certainly deserve by providing more opportunities for gainful employment.



Kids' Page

Benjamin Franklin is Lost

Ben went out for a walk between sessions at the Constitutional Convention. He wandered a little too far and got lost. He has a meeting at Independence Hall in half an hour. Help Ben find the way back.

